



REMARKS

Entry of the amendments to the specification and claims prior to the initial examination of the above-captioned application is requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

CONCLUSION

Entry of the foregoing amendments prior to the initial examination of the above-captioned application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: August 24, 2001

By: Thomas Coester
Thomas M. Coester, Reg. No. 39,637

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(310) 207-3800

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited as First Class Mail with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on August 24, 2001.

Nadya Gordon August 24, 2001
Nadya Gordon Date

Attachment: VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

A



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION

RECEIVED
AUG 30 2001
TECHNOLOGY CENTER
100

The paragraph beginning on page 6, line 3, has been amended as follows:

Porous member 80 may be comprised of materials such as cotton high-density polyethylene (HDPE) or ultra-high-molecular-weight polyethylene (UHMWPE).

Elongated rigid needle 18 is formed of material such as stainless steel hypotubing and has a beveled or otherwise sharpened distal tip 40. As shown in **Figure 23**, a hollow bore 22 extends longitudinally through needle 18. A transparent flash chamber housing 37 is coupled to the proximal end of the elongated rigid needle 18. A hollow flash chamber bore 38 extends longitudinally through the proximal flash chamber housing 37. Such longitudinal flash chamber bore 38 has a substantially cylindrical proximal inner wall of substantially continuous diameter and a narrowed or tapered distal inner wall 60. ~~The hollow inner~~Longitudinal flash chamber bore 38 of flash chamber housing 37 is continuous with and connected to the hollow bore 22 of needle 18 as shown in **Figure 1** wherein these elements coaxially nestled together.

The paragraph beginning on page 6, line 14, has been amended as follows:

Figure 4 shows needle blunting apparatus 25 of assembly 10 including an elongated tubular blunting member 65 preferably formed of rigid material such as stainless steel hypotubing. Blunting member 65 and needle 30-18 may form a single integral piece or they may be separate and secured together by methods known in the art. One such method involves blunting member 65 having a smaller outer diameter in comparison to the inner diameter of needle 30-18 such that blunting member 65 comfortably slides into needle 30-18 forming a secure member to pierce the skin or connective tissue of a human.

A

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-13 are cancelled and claims 14-17 are added.